

**Workforce Development Division (WDD) Report
For Workforce Development Council Meeting on February 14, 2013**

1. Workforce Investment Act (WIA)

a. WIA National Emergency Grant—On-the-Job Training

The ARRA WIA, National Emergency Grant for On-the-Job Training (OJT) activities concluded on September 30, 2012. Statewide, a total of 42 persons were provided OJT and support services. As with most OJTs, outcomes were very positive: 41 secured employment, of whom 31 remained with their OJT employers, 9 found employment in OJT-related jobs; and one person found a job elsewhere. After a slow start, the program gained momentum through concerted outreach to employers, who benefitted from reimbursement rates of 50% to 90% of participants' wages during the training period. The entire federal grant of \$601,873 in federal funds was expended and complemented by the use of WIA formula funds for staffing and related costs.

b. Federal Technical Assistance Sessions—Dec. 11-12, 2012

Ms. Virginia Hamilton, Regional Administrator for USDOL, Region 6, and her staff facilitated a series of technical assistance sessions in Honolulu on December 11 and 12, 2012 to bring together state and local recipients of USDOL employment and training funds. Purpose of the sessions was to build relationships among state and local grantees for stronger collaborations and to use resources more effectively. WDD hosted and assisted in coordinating the sessions.

- **On December 11, 2012**, information was shared about the different awards to Hawaii, which amounted to a staggering \$67 million for various workforce development programs in the last few years, including about \$7 million in WIA formula funds. Each organization highlighted their programs, barriers to collaboration were identified, assumptions were challenged, and greater alignment of programs and services was planned. Attendees included staff from One-Stop Centers, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, University of Hawaii Community College campuses, Maui Economic Development Board, State Department of Defense, and Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.

Due to the success of the sessions, a follow-up meeting was initiated by DLIR Director Dwight Takamine in collaboration with Honolulu Community College Chancellor, Erica Lacro, on February 1, 2013, at Honolulu Community College to continue the dialogue and begin exploring further collaborations for current and future grant opportunities.

- In the morning of **December 12, 2012**, Regional Administrator Virginia Hamilton and her aide met with the One-Stop Center managers and WDD Administrative staff to further share best practices and issues that largely centered on budget and workload concerns.
 - In the afternoon of **December 12, 2012**, Ms. Hamilton met with DLIR Director and staff and representatives of neighbor island WIBs and Counties to further explore how budget cuts for WIA state level activities can be addressed or mitigated.
- c. **Training Sessions for One-Stop Operators—Services to Dislocated Workers**
DLIR WDD coordinated the hosting of three (3) separate technical assistance sessions from August to December 2012 for one-stop operators who provided services to dislocated workers. Different speakers were procured by the USDOL, in conjunction with training needs identified by DLIR WDD and local areas. With the assistance of the City and County's Oahu WorkLinks, who graciously hosted one session at their Dillingham site, attendees learned different facets of services to dislocated workers. Topics included: Effectively Building Employer Relationship, Developing Customer-Driven Business Outreach Practices and Strategies for Layoff Aversion. Training was well-received by attendees. WDD plans to incorporate strategies into developing practical employee surveys, marketing activities and services available to employers and workers and activities to assist employers with layoff aversion.
- d. **Installation of New Version of HireNet Hawaii**
A new version of HireNet Hawaii was installed in mid-January 2013, providing more features for users. Training was provided in late November 2012 in Honolulu to staff of all One-Stop Centers and WIA Youth Providers.
- e. **Revised 2012-2017 State Plan for WIA and Wagner-Peyser**
In late October 2012, USDOL commented on the State Plan submitted in September and asked for clarifying revisions. Revisions were prepared and submitted on November 9, 2012. Further revisions are still required and currently being addressed. Final revised plan is due to USDOL by March 15, 2013.

2. **Veterans Programs**

- a. **Jobs for Veterans Conference-- September 20-21, 2012**
WDD planned and conducted a Jobs for Veterans Conference in Honolulu to train and update One-Stop Center staff, including WDD staff who specialize in services to veterans, on the plethora of training programs for military veterans and reinforce key federal regulations for services to military veterans. Its purpose was to increase awareness on

programs, policy and procedures which shape the current and future development of employment transition strategies for transitioning service members, disabled veterans, and employer partnerships. Speakers were from the U.S. DOL Veterans Employment and Training Services, DOL Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, State Office of Veteran Services, State Approving Agency for VA approved education and training programs, and Society for Human Resource Management.

Mr. Ron Gamble, consultant to the Region Administrator, Employment and Training Administration (ETA), region 6, and a Rapid Response Program trainer, recognized DLIR WDD for its Promising Practice initiative with providing transition services to veterans, as did Ms. Virginia Hamilton, Regional Administrator, during her technical assistance sessions in December 2012.

b. Follow-Up Session-February 14, 2013

By request from the City's OWL, Veterans Program Specialist, Duke Olds, from WDD will conduct a follow-up training session with OWL staff on February 14, 2013 to continue familiarizing them with the training programs available to veterans and the priority of service mandated for veterans in One-Stop Centers.

3. Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)

The SCSEP State Plan for \$1.7 million in federal funds was submitted to USDOL on September 14, 2012. Based on comments received from USDOL, additional information was submitted on November 30, 2012. The program continues to operate while we await full approval.

4. Transitioning Administration of WDC to WDD

Following the resignation of the WDC Executive Director, the WDD Administrator and her staff met frequently with the WDC staff to learn about their programs and collaboratively identify and address outstanding issues. Support activities for the WDC Board itself transitioned from the WDC staff to WDD staff.

Budget issues for WIA statewide administration were addressed through a combination of funds carried over from the prior Program Year, a one-time infusion of state general funds, cost savings from departure of WDC's Executive Director, eliminating almost all travel costs, and decreasing staff time being spent toward WIA administration. Despite these measures, it became necessary to reduce WIA staff by an additional body this year. More cuts are in store this Program Year depending on impact of sequestration.